

## Housing Selection Process Myths & Facts

**MYTH:**

*HSP appointment times and HSP numbers are determined and assigned to students by the Office of Residence Life & Housing.*

**FACT:**

HSP appointment times and HSP numbers are determined by only 2 factors:

1. Class standing for the coming year
2. A 3 digit number randomly generated and assigned to students by the STAR system

Your HSP number is averaged with your roommate(s) number and then all resulting averages are placed in order from highest to lowest to create appointment times.

**MYTH:**

*Residence Life & Housing determines housing selection procedures without input from the community.*

**FACT:**

Several members of the Residence Life & Housing professional staff form a standing committee that addresses all housing related matters including meeting as necessary with the SGA Director of Residence Life and other groups of students.

**MYTH:**

*Property damage deposits fund various projects around the Holy Cross campus.*

**FACT:**

The \$50 property damage deposit assessed each semester is used to offset damage charges that students and the residence hall communities incur during the academic year. If damage occurs on a particular hall and the person responsible cannot be determined, the damage is charged to all residents of the hall. The first \$50 worth of damages is taken out of this deposit. If the damages incurred by a student do not exceed \$50, the remainder is applied to the student's account. If the damages exceed \$50, the overage is billed to the student's account.

**MYTH:**

*If there are **almost** enough people in your group to fill a certain room, you can select that room.*

**FACT:**

You are only able to select a room that your group is able to completely fill during HSP. Therefore, if you would like a 6 or 4 person room, you will need to have that many people in your group. The Office of Residence Life & Housing in Hogan 122 has a HSP roommate board for those students looking for additional roommates. Please stop by to post an ad or take potential roommate information and get connected with others.

**MYTH:**

*I can pick my room for next year and then worry about signing a Statement of Obligation later.*

**FACT:**

All students must sign a Statement of Obligation on STAR **before** selecting a room during HSP.

**MYTH:**

*I'm almost sure that I'm studying abroad next year, so I don't need to select a room during HSP.*

**FACT:**

If you have not yet confirmed your plans to study abroad or away, you may select a room during HSP. If you are approved to study abroad or away following HSP, we will remove you from that room assignment. However, this will leave your roommates with a vacancy that will be filled if needed. You may also elect to not pick a room during HSP and be placed over the summer if you need housing for the fall. You should choose the best option for you and your roommates.

**MYTH:**

*Unless we all live in the same room, it will be impossible for me to maintain my friendships.*

**FACT:**

Rising juniors and seniors are able to put as many as 6 people in their group during HSP. If a 6-person room does not accommodate your friend circle, you can form 2 groups opt to have 1 of the groups defer their appointment time back to the group with a later appointment time in order to choose rooms at the same appointment time. Choosing at the same time could potentially offer an option to live close together. However, depending on the appointment time and which rooms are selected up until that point, deferring will not guarantee your groups a space close by one another. Ultimately, Holy Cross is a small and tight knit community; there will be endless opportunities to maintain relationships outside of living together.

**MYTH:**

*I have a group of friends that have an earlier time than my group of roommates, can I pick a room during their appointment time?*

**FACT:**

You **MUST** show up for your appointment time, your appointment time is your only chance to:

1. Select a room
2. Elect to come back during a **later** appointment time to select with another group. You cannot bring another group into your group's earlier appointment time.
3. Elect to not select a room during HSP altogether. If you select this choice, you are still under contract therefore required to live on campus. If you do not choose a room during HSP, you will be placed into a room during the summer.
4. All groups that are late or miss their appointment times will be moved to the end of the appointment times for that night. Groups that do not attend HSP at all on the night of their appointment time should contact Residence Life & Housing or they may be assigned to rooms after HSP is completed.

**MYTH:**

*Certain student populations get preferential treatment and can get around appointment times.*

**FACT:**

No students or student populations are advantaged during HSP. The process by which HSP numbers are assigned is designed to be as fair and unbiased as possible so that each student has an equal opportunity to select a room on campus.

**MYTH:**

*I want to live on campus but if I do not get my first choice room, I'll live off campus.*

**FACT:**

Students who sign a Statement of Obligation in STAR and register to participate in HSP **cannot** cancel their contract if they are not able to select their preferred room. Students who sign the housing contract and register with a group are obligated to live on campus.

All students who have been approved to live off campus next year will not be extended an on campus housing contract through STAR, and therefore will not participate in HSP. If your plans to live off campus have changed and you now intend to live on campus, you must contact our office ([hsp@holycross.edu](mailto:hsp@holycross.edu)) immediately.

Please note that the off campus housing application process closed in November and no additional students will be approved to live off campus.